



**United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development**

Distr.: Limited
13 June 2018

Original: English

Trade and Development Board
Sixty-fifth session, part I
Geneva, 4–8 and 25 and 26 June 2018

**Draft report of the Trade and Development Board
on its sixty-fifth session, part I**

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 4 to 8 and 25 and 26 June 2018

Addendum

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
President's summary	2
Building resilience to multiple shocks affecting people and sustainable development	2

GE.18-09716(E)



★ 1 8 0 9 7 1 6 ★

Please recycle



President's summary

Building resilience to multiple shocks affecting people and sustainable development

(Agenda item 2 (d))

1. The last panel of the high-level segment comprised the Special Envoy for Climate Change of Poland; the Ambassador of Jamaica to the United Nations (New York); the Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the United Nations (Geneva); the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of the Pacific Islands Forum to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva; and the Ambassador of the Permanent Delegation of the African Union to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva. The panel discussion was moderated by the Deputy Secretary-General of UNCTAD.

2. Opening the discussion, the moderator noted that every country in the world today was confronted by economic, social and environmental shocks. The resulting impacts of those shocks could destroy years of development efforts. Increasing global recognition of the interactions of natural hazards and human-induced crises had led many countries to design and implement national resilience strategies to both limit damage and enhance recovery from those shocks.

3. One panellist emphasized that environmental shocks resulting from climate change could adversely impact personal property, infrastructure, health and agricultural production. The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change provided financial support to developing countries seeking to prepare and implement measures to enhance their resilience to climate change. Most panellists stressed the need for small island States in the Caribbean and Pacific and developing countries in Africa to build resilience to climate change, as well as to economic and health-related shocks.

4. Several panellists argued that their efforts to strengthen resilience were directly related to making better progress in diversifying their economies, enhancing the production of value added products and integrating their economies into global value chains. One panellist noted that African countries that had expected progress to occur after opening their economies years ago were now engaged in developing a stronger and more self-sufficient regional economy through the African Continental Free Trade Area. Another panellist argued that high debt burdens prevented many developing countries from allocating more financial resources to develop the national infrastructure needed to both bolster trade and reduce their vulnerability to environmental shocks. Another panellist proposed that the increased use of debt for nature swaps by multilateral finance institutions could significantly address the challenge of financing resilience measures, particularly those related to climate change, including in the energy and transport sectors.

5. Some delegates argued that a fairer, more equitable and inclusive multilateral trading system was needed to better support the national efforts of developing countries to build their resilience to shocks. The representative of one regional group stressed that building resilience was an ongoing process, and that a people-centred approach was important when designing and implementing resilience strategies. Another delegate emphasized that developing countries were the most vulnerable to environmental shocks and that financial support was needed for them to bolster their resilience to environmental shocks.